

Application No.: 10/043,206 **BEST AVAILABLE COPY**
06/26/2003

REMARKS

The Examiner in the Office Action of 04/01/03 rejected claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moore (U.S. Pat. No. 4,550,903). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujitsuka (JP360247672a).

Turning to the rejection of claims as being anticipated by Moore, Moore discloses a document handler having a plenum which feeds an air knife to assist in separating sheets from a stack. The amount of air discharged from the air knife is varied based upon the number of sheets in the stack of original documents, which is determined by counting the documents. The reference does not disclose an air source control where the air pressure is varied based on a predetermined condition based upon the weight of a sheet.

There is no such requirement in the reference. Accordingly, since all of the claimed elements of the invention herein are not disclosed by the patent cited by the Examiner, it is submitted that claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by the reference and is allowable.

As claim 2 is dependent upon and contains all of the limitations of presumably allowable claim 1, it is submitted that it too is allowable in the same manner.

Turning next to the rejections of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujitsuka, Fujitsuka describes an air puffer that directs a puff of air toward the lead edge of a sheet exiting a fuser. The reference does not disclose an air source control where the air pressure is varied based on a predetermined condition based upon the weight of a sheet. Accordingly, since all of the claimed elements of the invention herein are not disclosed by the patent cited by the Examiner, it is submitted that claims 4 and 5 as amended are not anticipated by the reference and are allowable.

A telephone interview at the number listed below is respectfully requested prior

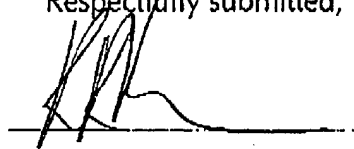
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to any further Office Action other than a Notice of Allowance, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation, Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation, Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION SHOWING MARKED-UP REVISIONS:

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A multifunction air knife, comprising:

a manifold connected to an air supply source, wherein said manifold defines an outlet for providing a directed stream of air from said manifold;

an air source control to vary an air pressure supplied to the manifold in response to a predetermined condition, wherein said predetermined condition is determined based upon the weight of a sheet.

~~3. An air knife according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined condition is determined based upon the weight of a sheet.~~

4. (Amended) A device for fusing a toner image to a sheet comprising:

a heated fusing roll;

a pressure roll in circumferential contact with said heated fusing roll to form a nip therebetween;

a manifold, adjacent said the nip formed by said heated fusing roll and said pressure roll, said manifold connected to an air supply source, wherein said manifold defines an outlet for providing a directed stream of air from said manifold;

an air source control to vary an air pressure supplied to the manifold in response to a predetermined condition, wherein said predetermined condition is determined based upon the weight of a sheet.

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5. (Amended) —An electrophotographic printing machine having a fusing apparatus, comprising:

a print engine for forming and depositing a toner image on a substrate;

a heated fusing roll;

a pressure roll in circumferential contact with said heated fusing roll to form a nip therebetween;

a manifold, adjacent said the nip formed by said heated fusing roll and said pressure roll, said manifold connected to an air supply source, wherein said manifold defines an outlet for providing a directed stream of air from said manifold;

an air source control to vary an air pressure supplied to the manifold in response to a predetermined condition, wherein said predetermined condition is determined based upon the weight of a sheet.

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